



State Representative Dave Quall

40th District

Olympia address:

301 John L. O'Brien Bldg.
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600
(360) 786-7800 (Olympia office)
(360) 428-1023 (District office)

E-mail: quall_da@leg.wa.gov

Toll-free Hotline: 1-800-562-6000

TDD (for hearing-impaired): 1-800-635-9993

Committees:

Education (Chairman)
Agriculture & Ecology

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Dear Friends,

The 2002 Session was the most challenging that I have ever faced in the Legislature. Finding a solution to our transportation crisis, balancing a budget with a shortfall of \$1.5 billion while protecting our most vulnerable citizens and our commitment to education, and addressing a myriad of other important issues caused us to be very focused in our deliberations this year.

With the 49/49 tie broken in the House and the Democrats in the majority for the first time in eight years, the leadership team of Speaker Frank Chopp and Majority Leader Lynn Kessler led us to an on-time finish — against all odds. Their dedication to good government and their determination to achieve the goals of a balanced budget without a general tax increase, and to win acceptance for a responsible transportation plan, inspired me. There were many times when I had doubts, but they never wavered. It was their skill and determination that carried us through. I truly admire their leadership.

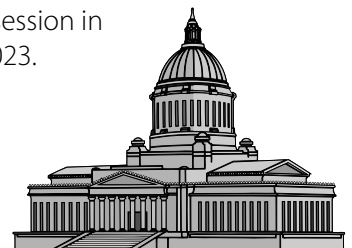
I heard from many of the people in the 40th district about a variety of issues. It is important for me to hear from you and learn the impacts of the legislation that we are considering. Your input is very important to the process in Olympia. Thank you for being thoughtful and concerned citizens. Your participation is what makes a representative democracy work.

Please continue to call on me with your thoughts and concerns. When we are not in session in Olympia, you can reach me through my district office in Mount Vernon at (360) 428-1023.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of Dave Quall in green ink. The signature is written in a cursive style, with the first name 'Dave' and the last name 'Quall' clearly visible.

Dave Quall



Representative Dave Quall

A Report to the 40th District



Education

This year I had the honor of chairing the House Education Committee, which has oversight of K-12 education policy for the state. As a retired teacher, counselor and coach with 38 years of experience in classrooms, education policy has been my passion in the Legislature. When considering legislation, I always keep in mind the wise words of Ben Edlund: "Let's do what is best for the boys and girls."

We face many challenges with the rigorous new standards developed under education reform. I am continually impressed by the dedication and skill of the classroom teachers who are working to bring students to the high standards. They are the key to the success of education reform and I applaud them. I have full faith and confidence in their abilities.

Closing the gap

The major piece of education policy passed this year will allow schools to begin closing the gap in educational achievement in our schools. This legislation permits the Academic Achievement and Accountability Commission (A+ Commission) to adopt performance improvement goals for all students, economically disadvantaged students, students with disabilities, limited English proficient students, and students from disproportionately underachieving racial and ethnic backgrounds. It is our job to educate all our children and this bill will help develop different strategies to teach those who may be more difficult to reach. These improvement goals will help to bring up test scores and reduce the drop-out rate.



School safety

I have always said that, outside of their home, school should be the safest place a child can be. Unfortunately, that is not true for too many of our children. This year we addressed three aspects of school safety:

- ✓ Legislation that deals with comprehensive safe schools plans establishes a process for schools to deal with natural disasters such as fire or earthquakes, but also incorporates more modern dangers such as hazardous waste emergencies, terrorism, and violence. We live in a changing world and we can't afford to be caught off-guard when we are dealing with our children's safety.
- ✓ Another good bill ensures that schools properly notify teachers, staff or students who are the subjects of a threat of violence or harm. This bill came in response to an unfortunate incident involving an Oak Harbor teacher who had threats made against her, but was not informed of those threats.
- ✓ HB 1444, known as the Anti-bully Bill, requires each school district to institute and enforce an anti-bullying policy. We know that bullying behavior is terrifying and dangerous. It has been linked to many acts of violence in our schools. Many adults remember the incidents of playground harassment that made life miserable for them. Children should not be afraid to go to school. This bill will help to raise the awareness of this destructive behavior and develop ways to deal with it.



Responding to Small Business

As a state representative, I look for ways to make state government responsive to the needs of our citizens. Easing the regulatory burden on small business is a priority for me.

Last summer, I was approached by Don Munro of Munro's Driving School in Mount Vernon. Don was concerned because the 90+ commercial driver training schools in the state were dual-regulated by the Department of Licensing and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), which has oversight of K-12 education. This dual oversight resulted in duplication of paperwork, inspections and documentation. It led to long delays in hiring new teachers and made it more difficult to concentrate on his business. He presented the problem as a classic case of over-regulation by the state which hampers small business and does not contribute to the safety of the citizens. Washington was the only state in the country with such dual regulation.

After a number of meetings with all parties, I sponsored HB 2560, which the governor signed into law on March 27. This bill gave sole regulation and oversight of commercial driving schools to the Department of Licensing. OSPI will still have input on curriculum for students under 18 and all teachers must pass a background check.

Agriculture and Ecology



As a member of the Agriculture and Ecology Committee, I focus on the needs of the agriculture community in the 40th district while balancing the needs of our environment. We are working

to find creative ways to preserve farmland in our district, but key to that goal is preserving farming as a viable industry. Legislation has created the Office of Conservation Easement, a Small Farms Marketing program, and labeling of fruits and vegetables as "grown in Washington."

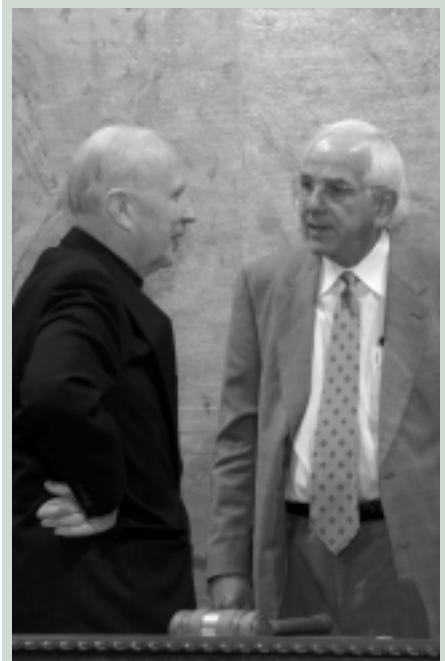
I have worked with local farmers and county officials to try to resolve the difficult issue of salmon stream buffers. We are all committed to finding solutions that protect our environment, save habitat for fish and wildlife, and keep agriculture viable.

The Challenge of Balancing the Budget



We began this 60-day session with the challenge of balancing the state budget in spite of a \$1.5 billion deficit. We accomplished this with painful but necessary adjustments and without a general tax increase. We had to cut nearly \$700 million in services, eliminate 900 state jobs, reduce benefits and delay pay raises for state employees, and carefully reapportion available resources to protect basic education and other vital programs that help our most vulnerable citizens.

A budget item that I made a priority was funding for Readiness to Learn (RTL) that is used for the ARIS (At Risk Intervention Services) programs throughout the district. I heard from dozens of people in all parts of the district about how important these funds were in assisting at-risk children and their families. With their help and their compelling stories, we were able to preserve this crucial funding.



I was honored when Father William Treacy joined us in Olympia on March 6 to offer the morning meditation in the House chamber. A beloved figure throughout Northwest Washington, Father Treacy lives near Mount Vernon at Camp Brotherhood, the retreat center he co-founded in 1967 with Rabbi Raphael Levine.

Responsible Transportation Plan

After years of gridlock in Olympia, the Legislature has produced a reasonable, responsible plan to start to untangle the transportation mess in our state. A solution to this problem is long overdue and is critical to the future of our economy. The business community has struggled for too many years with the challenges of getting their goods to market and their employees to and from work. Our traffic problems cost each citizen of our state hundreds of dollars every year in lost time and wasted gas while sitting in traffic.

We addressed this problem with a combination of a statewide plan and

(Transportation contd. from pg. 3)

an optional regional plan for the Puget Sound metropolitan area. The statewide plan incorporates much-needed transportation improvements throughout the state, including car ferry service and road projects that affect the 40th district. The regional plan will be developed, voted on and paid for by the citizens of Snohomish, King and Pierce counties only.

The most important project included in the statewide plan for our district is the widening of Highway 20 between Burlington and Fredonia. Too many tragic deaths have occurred along this stretch of highway, five in the last year alone. Planning for this improvement has been on-going for nearly 20 years.



If the statewide plan is approved by the voters, the funds will finally be there to begin this project.

Without question, we need to get Washington moving again. Because we respect and trust the voters of Washington, we chose to send this transportation package to you for your approval. The choice belongs to the voters. I hope you'll take the time to examine the plan and weigh the costs and benefits, then go to the polls next November and make the decision you feel is best. Win or lose, we'll be living with the results of this important vote for many years to come.